

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Application No.: 10/811,808

Docket No.: 2336-257

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 4, now cancelled. Claim 3 and non-elected claims 6-14 have also been cancelled to simplify the issues.

Amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied reference which does not teach or suggest the newly added limitation of an alloy layer being made of ZnNi. The reference teaches, at best, only MgNi. Claims 2 and 5 are patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

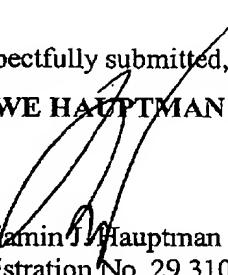
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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